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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF BODMIN**

FOR THE YEAR 1942.



BODMIN :

PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.

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TO THE BODMIN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1942.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—3,311.

Population—5,844.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the Rate Books—1,265.

Rateable value—£27,462.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£109-9-9

Social Conditions.

The Town is a residential one and the Depot for the County Regiment.

It has no large industries but is the shopping and marketing centre for a large agricultural district.

Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

	M.	F.	Total
Live births	42	31	73
Legitimate	39	29	68
Illegitimate	3	2	5

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population—12·4

Still births—Nil.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	42	35	77

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—13·1

There were no deaths from Puerpural Sepsis or other maternal causes.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—

	M.	F.	Total.
Total deaths	5	2	7
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Death rate per 1,000 live births—95·8.

Premature birth and congenital debility were the chief causes of death.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
„ Measles „	...	..	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	Nil
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			...	1

The chief causes of death were—

Heart disease	...	...	...	..	24
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...		...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those for England and Wales :—

		Per 1,000 England and Wales.	
Birth rate	...	12·4	15·8
Death rate	...	13·1	11·6
Infantile death rate		95·8	4

The general health was satisfactory during the year.

In July there was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the Mental Hospital, seven inmates being affected.

Most of the cases in the Borough occurred in June and July.

The cases generally were mild and did well, no deaths occurring.

Free immunization against Diphtheria was offered by the Council and most of the children attending school were done as well as a number of children under school age.

There was no closure of Schools on account of epidemics.

General provision of Health Services.

Medical Officer of Health—J. H. Hobling (part time Officer) who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Wadebridge, Public Vaccinator and Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector—who is also the Borough

Surveyor—R. T. Buscombe. He is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is a Motor Ambulance belonging to the St. John's Ambulance Association. There are County Ambulances for A.R.P. work in addition to Civilian Motor Vans which have been adapted to carry stretchers in cases of emergency.

Nursing in the Home.

District Nurses are supplied by the County Nursing Association.

There is a Maternity Clinic and Infants' Welfare Centre managed by a Committee of Ladies which is well attended by expectant mothers and those with young children.

Hospitals.

The Bodmin and East Cornwall Voluntary Hospital serves the Borough and surrounding district for ordinary Medical and Surgical cases.

There is an Emergency Maternity Hospital for lying-in cases and an Emergency Hospital for Military and civilian patients suffering from war injuries.

Sanitary circumstances of the area.

Water supply.

This is satisfactory and abundant since the installation of a "Booster" late in the previous year.

The Town Reservoir has been kept full and at times overflowing. A building has been erected for housing a Chlorination plant but there is delay in obtaining delivery.

Drainage and Sewage.

No extensions have been made to the main sewers

The new sewage disposal works which deals principally with the drainage from the Military Camp is completed and working satisfactorily.

Scavenging.

A Motor Van is used for the regular collection of household refuse which is dealt with by controlled tipping.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Bakeries, Dairies, Cowsheds and other places where food is dealt with are visited and inspected.

The slaughtering of animals for food has been concentrated at the Government slaughter house, all other slaughter houses being closed down. This slaughter house is visited regularly and a large proportion of animals and carcasses inspected.

Housing.

No building is taking place.

A lay-out scheme for the erection of 34 houses for the working classes (the first year's programme) on the Green Lane Estate has been submitted to the Ministry of Health at their request.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Number of cases notified.
Enteric Fever	0
Scarlet Fever	6
Diphtheria	12
Puerpural Pyrexia	1
Dysentery	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1

There were no notifications of Pneumonia, Whooping Cough or Measles.

All the cases of Dysentery and seven of the cases of Diphtheria occurred in the County Mental Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during the year—

Age period	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
25	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total—	4	2	0	0	2	1	0	0

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.

